REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the instant application and new independent claim 29 and dependent claim 30 are submitted by this Preliminary Amendment.

Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions or suggestions, or should issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned for prompt resolution.

Respectfully submitted, LEV INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONSULTING

Robert G. Lev Reg. No. 30,280

4766 Michigan Boulevard Youngstown, Ohio 44505 Telephone No. (330) 759-1423 Facsimile No. (330) 759-4865

Date : <u>April 3, 2001</u>

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON

NAME Robert G. Levi

SIGNATU